



NZUScouncil

KĀHUI O AOTEAROA ME AMERIKA

Founded in 2001, the **New Zealand United States Council** is committed to fostering and developing a strong and mutually beneficial relationship between New Zealand and the United States. The Council is an advocate for the expansion of trade and economic links between the two countries including a comprehensive free trade agreement achieved either bilaterally or in the context of an expanded Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement.

The Council works closely with its counterpart in Washington DC, the US NZ Council, with business groups in New Zealand and with government agencies, especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the New Zealand Embassy in Washington. A key activity for the NZ-US Council is the USNZ Partnership Forum. Organized by the NZUS Council and its Washington-based counterpart the USNZ Council, Partnership Forums are held every 18 to 24 months alternately in Washington DC and New Zealand.

The Trans Pacific Partnership - The New Zealand United States Council believes that through the **Trans Pacific Partnership** New Zealand and the United States should negotiate a comprehensive, high quality free trade agreement. The United States, Australia, Malaysia, Peru and Viet Nam are currently negotiating to join the Trans Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (TPP) with existing members, New Zealand, Brunei, Chile and Singapore. A successful conclusion to these negotiations will provide a freer trade and investment relationship between New Zealand and the United States. This is a goal that has been central to the NZUS Council since the Council's inception in 2001. See also:

2011 Annual Report / A Free Trade Agreement Through the Trans-Pacific Partnership

Free Trade with the U.S. - The Time is Now / The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement December 12, 2011.

TPP - A New Zealand Business Perspective - Stephen Jacobi to TPP Seminar, APEC Honolulu, 10 November'11.

Pacific Partners : The Future of U.S. -New Zealand Relations February 2011. 86p.

Perspectives: President Obama; Ambassador Huebner; Hon. John Key; Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, etc.

"We are very pleased that the relationship between New Zealand and the United States is growing stronger by the day. Part of that has to do with the great affection that our peoples have towards each other. Part of it has to do with a great deal of common interests and a set of common values."

President Obama



NZUS Council

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POLITICS / GOVERNMENT

The New Congress Arrives: A Live Web Chat *Brookings, January 5, 2012.*

On January 5, Brookings expert William Galston took questions in a live web chat moderated by POLITICO's Seung Min Kim on what the new Congress looks like, and how policy priorities have changed for both parties since the November elections.

President Obama Sends Startup America Legislative Agenda to Congress *The White House, January 31, 2012.*

In the State of the Union, the President said that "Most new jobs are created in start-ups and small businesses. So let's pass an agenda that helps them succeed. Both parties agree on these ideas. So put them in a bill, and get it on my desk this year." Building on this statement and proposals put forward in the Jobs Act in September, the President delivered an agenda that outlines bipartisan ideas to help startups and small businesses succeed.

Getting Your Campaign Website Right by Colin Delany in *Campaigns & Elections*, February 16, 2012.

Social media may grab the spotlight and online advertising the dollars, but campaign websites are still what gets the job done - at least when it comes to processing donations and signing up supporters. Delany warns that ignoring the basic rules of good website design and implementation can cost a candidate money, volunteers and votes.

Some politics/government resources which may be of interest:

2012 Presidential Primary Calendar - National Conference of State Legislatures – Chronological.

The Green Papers – 2012 Presidential Primaries, Caucuses, and Conventions Chronologically

2012 Presidential and State Primary and Caucus States - National Conference of State Legislatures - By state.

State-by-State Primary Results On the *New York Times* website

2012 Gubernatorial Elections. Fact Sheet - *National Governors Association*. **See also** for a map & links to resources.

Campaign Interest and News Sources

Campaign 2012: The Candidates and the Economy Backgrounder *CFR*, February 23, 2012.

Representatives and Senators: Trends in Member Characteristics Since 1945 *CRS*, February 17, 2012. 41p.

Public More Optimistic about Economy, but Concerns Persist *Pew Research Center*, February 16, 2012.

Voting and Registration – Historical Time Series & Tables *Bureau of the Census*, revised February 15, 2012.

Trends in Party Identification of Religious Groups *Pew Research*, February 2, 2012.

Readout on the Florida Primary and a Look Ahead at the Upcoming Caucuses and Primaries Briefing by Jerry Hagstrom, columnist for the *National Journal*; at the Foreign Press Center, *U.S. Dept of State*, February 1, 2012.

Campaign 2012 and the Media: The Story Heading into South Carolina *Pew Research*, January 18, 2012.

Unpopular Nationally, Romney Holds Solid GOP Lead *Pew Research*, January 18, 2012.

Campaign 2012 Moves South: Previewing the South Carolina and Florida Primaries Briefing by Prof. Robert Shapiro of Columbia University, at the Foreign Press Center, *U.S. Dept of State*, in New York, January 18, 2012.

Women in the United States Congress 1917-2012 *CRS*, January 12, 2012.

Campaign 2012: China - Speaker: Elizabeth Economy. *CFR*, January 12, 2012. **Video**

Contemporary Developments in Presidential Elections *CRS*, January 9, 2012. 54p.

Presidential Signing Statements: Constitutional and Institutional Implications *CRS*, January 4, 2012.

Elections: Views on Implementing Federal Elections on a Weekend *GAO*, January 2012. 71p.

See also our e-Spotlite - **Elections 2012**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Obama Has Overseen Major Shifts in U.S. Foreign Policy *IIP Digital*, January 30, 2012.

In the three years since President Obama's inauguration, the world has seen significant shifts in U.S. foreign policy as the United States has ended its involvement in Iraq, focused its efforts on nuclear nonproliferation and security, and emphasized the importance of the Asia-Pacific region to American interests.

Current U.S. Foreign Policy Issues Briefing by U.S. Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs Michael Hammer, at the Foreign Press Center, U.S. Dept of State, February 13, 2012.

TED Talks – Stephen Pinker - Given Iraq and Darfur, Pinker says we are living in the most peaceful time in our species' existence.

The Revolution Will Note Be Tweeted by Jon B. Alterman in the *Washington Quarterly*, Fall 2011.

Twitter and Facebook certainly played a part in the Arab revolts of 2011 – making at least three important contributions – but it was actually old-fashioned television that was fundamental to the events which unfolded before our eyes.

Arab Revolts Upend Old Assumptions by Augustus Richard Norton in *Current History*, January 2012.

The uprisings have ushered in a new era in Arab politics, a time bursting with potential for the growth of freedom, yet also laden with risks and challenges from the West.

Can Suu Kyi Make the Shift from Icon to Politician? by Joshua Kurlantzick. *CFR Blog*, February 6, 2012.

Over the past year, as she has been released from house arrest and returned to leadership of the National League for Democracy, Suu Kyi has had to make the shift from icon to working politician, a difficult transition that even some of history's greatest figures, like Nelson Mandela, took time to master. Kurlantzick analyses her chances.

A China Policy Primer for Xi Jinping's Visit by Dan Twining in *Foreign Policy*, January 14, 2012.

The pageantry surrounding the visit of Vice President Xi Jinping, China's next leader, reflects the best tradition of U.S.-China sumitry since 1972.

Taiwan's Election and the Future of the U.S.-Taiwan Relationship: No End to the Affair by Dan Twining. *NBR*, January 23, 2011.

President Obama was right to pledge that the United States would be "all-in" in a Pacific century. One of the fastest ways to undermine a "pivot" to Asia would be to pivot away from Taiwan before its people and China's can freely chart a common future together.

India Comes to Terms With a Rising China by Harsh V. Pant in *HBR*, September 2011. Book chapter.

The changing trajectory of Indian policy toward China, Part explores how India is responding to China's rise across a range of issue areas central to its strategic calculus.

The Saudi-Iranian Rivalry and the Future of Middle East Security by W. Andrew Terrill. *Strategic Studies Institute*, 2012. 95p.

The Middle East is undergoing an era of revolutionary change that is challenging the foreign policies of the United States and virtually all regional states. In this new environment, opportunities and challenges exist for a number of regional and extra-regional states to advance their national interests, while attempting to marginalize those of their rivals.

Secret Weapon: High-Value Target Teams as an Organizational Innovation *INSS*, March 2011. 84p.

When the high-value target teams and integrated conventional force commands collaborated tactically, they produced quick and powerful results. When Petraeus and Crocker used collaborative warfare more broadly in pursuit of a consistent counterinsurgency strategy, the situation in Iraq turned around dramatically. Collaborative organizations are not only powerful but also cost effective. In comparison with new weapons or reconstruction funding, interagency teams cost next to nothing and can be used almost anywhere. However, collaboration is a difficult force to harness and institutionalize.

United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security *The White House*, November 2011. 32p.

As noted in the U.S. National Security Strategy, "Experience shows that countries are more peaceful and prosperous when women are accorded full and equal rights and opportunity." In order to bring about the peace and prosperity we seek, the United States is promoting better understanding and integration of gender issues across all our agencies. Even when peace

processes have failed to end conflict conclusively, women have positively influenced efforts to advance security and stability via negotiations.

Pakistan's Three-Way Power Struggle: A Dispute With Much at Stake Ed. Board, *Washington Post*, January 25, 2012.

The crisis in U.S. relations with Pakistan has been overtaken, in Pakistan itself, by a power struggle among three competing authorities: the civilian government, the military and the judiciary. Its outcome could determine whether Pakistan will seek to repair its alliance with the United States or become a more open adversary in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

China: Big Changes Coming Soon by Henry Rowen in *Policy Review*, December/January, 2011.

Rowen predicts economic growth and political upheaval. He says this growth is not only of great importance internationally, it is already having profound domestic social effects and it is bound to have internal political ones also - sooner or later.

Assessing DOD's New Strategic Guidance CRS, January 12, 2012. 9p.

This new guidance is explicitly intended to reshape future Department of Defense (DOD) priorities, activities, and budget requests for the next decade.

Some international relations resources which may be of interest:

CFR Blog – Asia Unbound - Features leading voices on Asia examining the region's growing importance in global affairs. It addresses the political, economic, and social developments of a diverse and emerging set of nations, and the opportunities and challenges they present.

Live at State: Foreign Policy Priorities for 2012 Interview with Jake Sullivan, Director of Policy Planning, U.S. Dept of State, January 24, 2012.

Public Priorities: Deficit Rising, Terrorism Slipping; Tough Stance on Iran Endorsed Pew Research, January 23, 2012. 30p. **Overview** / **Brief Summary**

The Role and Relevance of Multilateral Engagement in U.S. Foreign Policy Remarks by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Esther Brimmer, February 16, 2012.

2011 Global Go To Think Tank Rankings *International Relations Program, University of Pennsylvania*, January 2012. 96p.

White House Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communications Benjamin Rhodes at the Center for American Progress January 30, 2012. Transcript.

America's Civilian Operations Abroad: Understanding Past and Future Requirements by Nora Bensahel & Patrick M. Cronin. *Center for a New American Security*, January 2012. 40p.

Town Hall Meeting on the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and U.S. Under Secretary of State for Management Patrick F. Kennedy, January 26, 2012.

Role of Religion in U.S. Foreign Policy Interview with Suzan Johnson Cook, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, and Chris Seiple, president of the Institute for Global Engagement; January 23, 2012.

Haiti: Two Years Later Report by the Office of the Haiti Special Coordinator, *U.S. Dept of State*, January 12, 2012.

Defense and International Security

Opening Statement at the Conference on Disarmament Remarks by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller in Geneva, January 24, 2012. See also **U.S. Seeks Halt to Production of Nuclear Weapons Materials** *IIP Digital*, January 24, 2012.

U.S. Assumes Chairmanship of G8 Related Nonproliferation Groups Media note, *U.S. Dept of State*, January 23, 2012.

The Global Regime for Armed Conflict Backgrounder. *CFR*, January 23, 2012.

Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense *U.S. Dept of Defense*, January 2012. See also Guidance **Guards Against All Threats, Officials Say** *American Forces Press Service*, January 5, 2012 which notes that "The plan drops the wording of a longstanding DOD paradigm for the military to be capable of fighting and prevailing in two land wars simultaneously."

Current and Future Worldwide Threats to the National Security of the United States Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services*, February 16, 2012.

Export Controls, Arms Sales, and Reform: Balancing U.S. Interests, Part II Hearing before the *U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, February 7, 2012. For **Transcripts** and scroll down.

A Defense Budget at the Crossroads Backgrounder by Jonathan Masters. *CFR*, February 7, 2012.

U.S. Intelligence Gives Congress a Roundup of World Threats *IIP Digital*, January 31, 2012. **Unclassified Statement** by Director of National Intelligence James R. Clapper to the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

From Telegraph to Twitter: Arms Control Diplomacy in the Information Age Remarks by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller at the University of Washington, Seattle, January 17, 2012.

U.S. Unmanned Aerial System *CRS*, January 3, 2012. 55p.

The New START Treaty: Central Limits and Key Provisions *CRS*, December 23, 2011.

Admiral Details Challenges, Opportunities of Pacific Fleet *American Forces Press Service*, January 19, 2012.

Not Fade Away: The Myth of American Decline by Robert Kagan. *The New Republic*, January 11, 2012.

New Study Ranks Countries on Security of Materials That Fuel Nuclear Arms *New York Times* online, January 11, 2012. The study is a joint product of the Nuclear Threat Initiative and the Economist Intelligence Unit.

World Military Expenditures and Arms Transfers 2005 *U.S. Dept of State*, January 2012. Covers the period 1995-2005. **Media Note**

Law of the Sea / Maritime Security

Balancing Maritime Security and Trade Facilitation: Protecting Our Ports, Increasing Commerce and Securing the Supply Chain – Part I Hearing, a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security*, February 7, 2012.

Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan *National Ocean Council*, January 2012. Note: 118p.

East Asia / Pacific

Willard: U.S. Welcomes Rotations, Not Bases, in Asia-Pacific *IIP Digital*, January 30, 2012. Reference is to Admiral Willard's briefing at the Foreign Press Center on January 27, 2012. **Asia-Pacific U.S. Military Overview** Briefing by Admiral Robert Willard, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command; at the Foreign Press Center, U.S. Dept of State, January 27, 2012.

U.S.-Japan-Republic of Korea Trilateral Media note, *U.S. Dept of State*, January 12, 2012.

North Korea

Is North Korea Ready for Talks? Interview with Scott A. Snyder. *CFR*, January 19, 2012.

North Korea: U.S. Relations, Nuclear Diplomacy, and Internal Situation *CRS*, January 17, 2012. 24p.

Kim Jong-Il's Death: Implications for North Korea's Stability and U.S. Policy *CRS*, December 22, 2011. 14p.

Korea

Keynote Address to Korea Society Gala Dinner Address by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Kurt M. Campbell, in Seoul, January 31, 2012.

Burma

Burma's Political Prisoners and U.S. Sanctions *CRS*, February 13, 2012. 16p.

Supporting Assessment Missions in Burma by International Financial Institutions Media note, U.S. Dept of State, February 6, 2012.

U.S. Looks to Deepen Philippine Trade, Security Ties *IIP Digital*, February 8, 2012.

Joint Statement of the U.S.-Philippines Bilateral Strategic Dialogue Joint Statement, January 27, 2012.

Toward a Deeper Alliance: U.S. -Philippines Bilateral Cooperation Fact sheet *U.S. Dept of State*, January 27, 2012.

Philippines

The U.S.-Philippine Alliance Deepening the Security and Trade Relationship Hearing before a subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, February 7, 2012. **Transcripts** and scroll to date.

Singapore

Secretary Clinton: Singapore is "Valuable Partner" for U.S. *IIP Digital*, February 2, 2012.

U.S.-Singapore Joint Vision Statement on New Political Framework February 1, 2012. Remarks at the signing, by **U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Singaporean Foreign Minister and Minister for Law K. Shanmugam**

U.S., Mongolian Diplomats Celebrate 25 Years of Official Ties *IIP Digital*, January 31, 2012.

Joint Statement of the U.S.-Singapore Strategic Partners Dialogue January 18, 2012.

Japan

U.S. Marks 100th Anniversary of Japan's Gift of Cherry Trees *IIP Digital*, February 23, 2012.

United States-Japan Joint Statement on Defense Posture Joint statement. *U.S. Dept. of State*, February 8, 2012.

U.S., Japan Hold High-Level Consultation on the Trans-Pacific Partnership Media release. *USTR*, February 7, 2012.

China:

China's Economic Reforms Take on New Urgency, Analyst Says *IIP Digital*, February 3, 2012. Reference is to a new book by Nicholas Lardy of the Peterson Institute of International Economics, in Washington DC.

Remarks by President Obama and Vice President Xi of the People's Republic of China before bilateral meeting White House, February 14, 2012.

Remarks at a Lunch in Honor of Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, February 14, 2012.

Strengthening U.S.-China Economic Relations Joint fact sheet, February 14, 2012.

China's Global Quest for Resources and Implications for the United States Hearing before the *U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission*, January 26, 2012.

Campaign 2012: The Candidates on U.S. Policy toward China Backgrounder. *CFR*, January 19, 2012.

Central Asia

U.S. Policy in Central Asia Address by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert O. Blake, Jr., January 25, 2012.

Human Rights Remain a U.S. Priority in Central Asia *IIP Digital*, January 27, 2012.

Central Asia: Regional Developments and Implications for U.S. Interests *CRS*, January 3, 2012. 64p.

Europe

The Future of the Eurozone and U.S. Interests *CRS*, January 17, 2012. 32p.

U.S.-EU Trade and Economic Relations: Key Policy Issues for the 112th Congress *CRS*, January 18, 2012. 19p.

Middle East & North Africa

Clinton Says the World Cannot Let the Syrian People Down *IIP Digital*, February 24, 2012.

Chairman's Conclusions of the Int. Conference of the Group of Friends of the Syrian People Tunis, February 24, 2012.

Egypt at a Crossroads Hearing, *U.S. House Comm. on Foreign Affairs*, February 16, 2012. **Transcripts** - scroll to date.

Be Patient, but Not Complacent, Clinton Tells Young Tunisians *IIP Digital*, February 25, 2012.

President Obama on Yemen's Transition to Abdo Rabo Mansour Hadi *The White House*, February 25, 2012.

UN Report Says Syrian Forces Committed Gross Human Rights Abuses *IIP Digital*, February 23, 2012.

U.S., EU Want Sustained and Productive Talks with Iran *IIP Digital*, February 17, 2012. See also **Secretary Clinton and EU High Representative Catherine Ashton**

The Causes of Instability and Unrest in the Middle East and North Africa: An Analytic Survey Review draft by Anthony H. Cordesman & Nicholas S. Yarosh. *CSIS*, February 13, 2012. Note: 131p. **Summary**

The U.S. Secretary of State - Town Hall Meeting in Tunis Transcript. February 25, 2012.

Rightsizing U.S. Mission Iraq by U.S. Deputy Sec. State for Management and Resources Thomas Nides, February 8, 2012.

Suspending Embassy Operations in Syria Statement, *U.S. Dept of State*, February 6, 2012.

Increased Risk of Syrian Civil War after Failed UN Vote *IIP Digital*, February 6, 2012.

Lebanon and the Uprising in Syria: Issues for Congress *CRS*, February 2, 2012.

In War's Wake: The Struggle for Post-Qadhafi Libya by Jason Pack & Barak Barfi. Washington Institute for Near East Policy, February 2012. 54p. **Summary**

Clinton to UN: Act on Syria or Be Complicit in Violence *IIP Digital*, January 31, 2012.

UN Security Council Session on the Situation in Syria Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, January 31, 2012.

Security Council Showdown on Syria Interview with Andrew Tabler of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy; Council on Foreign Relations, January 31, 2012.

The Arab League Background by Jonathan Masters. *CFR*, January 26, 2012.

Egypt-U.S. Trade and Investment Partnership Promoting Opportunity and Job Creation Joint statement, January 25, 2012.

U.S. Welcomes Arab League Call for Assad to Step Down *IIP Digital*, January 23, 2012.

Israeli. Arab Youths to Hold Virtual Peace Conference on Facebook on *Twylah.com TechReligious* January 2012.

U.S. Conventional Weapons Destruction Program in Iraq Media note, *U.S. Dept of State*, January 20, 2012.

Rescuing Iranian Sailors? U.S. Says It Is Just Doing Its Duty *IIP Digital*, January 17, 2012.

U.S.-Egypt Business Council Deputy U.S. Trade Repr. Miriam E. Sapiro, Washington DC, January 17, 2012. **See also**

Arab League Boycott of Israel *CRS*, December 29, 2011.

Yemen: Background and U.S. Relations *CRS*, December 28, 2011.

Afghanistan

U.S. Businesses Look to Help Rebuild Afghanistan *IIP Digital*, February 14, 2012.

Panetta Describes U.S. Military Transition in Afghanistan *IIP Digital*, February 2, 2012. **See also**

Afghan, ISAF Officials Detail Corruption Fight *IIP Digital*, January 20, 2012.

"Surge Recovery" and Next Steps in the War in Afghanistan: In Brief *CRS*, January 6, 2012. 8p.

Afghanistan in 2011: A Survey of the Afghan People *The Asia Foundation*, November 2011. The latest in this annual series. The **full text** Note: 262p.

Iran

Iran's Elections and Nuclear Politics Interview with Farideh Farhi of the University of Hawaii. *CFR*, February 24, 2012.

Obama Orders Stricter Sanctions Against Iran *IIP Digital*, February 6, 2012.

Blocking Property of the Government of Iran and Iranian Financial Institutions Presidential message to Congress, February 6, 2012. **Executive Order / U.S. Dept of the Treasury - Fact Sheet**

Ahmadinejad's Tour of Tyrants and Iran's Agenda in the Western Hemisphere Hearing before the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, February 2, 2012. For **transcripts** scroll to date.

A Third Option for Iran Interview with Richard N. Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, February 1, 2012.

Iran Sanctions *CRS*, January 26, 2012. 78p.

Can Sanctions Bring Iran to the Table? Analysis brief by Jayshree Bajoria. *CFR*, January 24, 2012.

Iran's Threat to the Strait of Hormuz *CRS*, January 23, 2012. 23p.

U.S. Condemns Iran's Announcement on Qom U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, January 10, 2012. Regarding commencement of enrichment operations at Iran's nuclear facility at Qom.

Iran's Nuclear Program: Tehran's Compliance with International Obligations *CRS*, December 21, 2011.

Europe and Russia

The United States and Denmark: NATO Allies and Global Partners Fact Sheet *The White House*, February 24, 2012. See also remarks by **President Obama & Danish Prime Minister Thorning-Schmidt – Remarks after a bilateral meeting**, February 24, 2012:

Examining the European Debt Crisis and its Implications Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs*, February 16, 2012.

Russian Political, Economic, and Security Issues and U.S. Interests *CRS*, February 10, 2012. Note: 70p.

Your Pain is Our Pain: The United States and the European Debt Crisis by Joseph Quinlan. *German Marshall Fund of the United States*, February 2012. 6p.

A New Era for Transatlantic Trade Leadership *Transatlantic Task Force on Trade/ Investment*, February, 2012. 48p.

The State of Transatlantic Relations U.S. Asst. Secretary of State Philip H. Gordon, in Berlin, January 11, 2012.

U.S. Defense Strategy Review and Europe Briefing by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Philip H. Gordon and Julianne Smith, Principal Director for Europe and NATO in the Office of the U.S. Secretary of Defense; at the Foreign Press Center, U.S. Dept of State, January 9, 2012. See also **Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense** January 2012. 16p.

Putin and the Uses of History by Fiona Hill and Clifford G. Gaddy. *The National Interest*, January-February 2012.

U.S.-EU Trade and Economic Relations: Key Policy Issues for the 112th Congress *CRS*, December 22, 2011. 19p.

EU-U.S. Economic Ties: Framework, Scope, and Magnitude *CRS*, December 21, 2011.

India:

India-U.S. and India-East Asia Relations: Triangulate This by Satu Limaye. *CSIS, Comparative Connections*, January 2012. 12p. **Short summary**

Latin America

Obama to Host Brazilian President for Wide-Ranging Talks *IIP Digital*, February 8, 2012.

The Central America Regional Security Initiative: A Shared Partnership Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of State*, February 6, 2012.

The Central America Regional Security Initiative: Enhanced Levels of Cooperation and Coordination Fact sheet *U.S. Dept of State*, February 6, 2012.

The Central America Regional Security Initiative: Strong, Capable, and Accountable Central American Governments Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of State*, February 6, 2012.

The Central America Regional Security Initiative: Safe Streets Fact sheet *U.S. Dept of State*, February 6, 2012.

The Central America Regional Security Initiative: State Presence and Security in At-Risk Communities Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of State*, February 6, 2012.

The Central America Regional Security Initiative: Disrupt the Movement of Criminals and Contraband Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of State*, February 6, 2012 .

U.S. Provides Aid for Improving Labor Rights in Colombia *IIP Digital*, February 2, 2012.

U.S. Increasing Support for Western Hemisphere Human Rights Panel *IIP Digital*, January 30, 2012.

Democratic Conditions in Nicaragua Statement by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, January 25, 2012.

The U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement: Background and Issues *CRS*, December 20, 201. 38p.

Africa

Expanding China-Africa Oil Ties Backgrounder by Christopher Alessi & Stephanie Hanson. *CFR*, February 8, 2012.

U.S. Support to Regional Efforts to Counter the Lord's Resistance Army Fact sheet *U.S. Dept of State*, February 7, 2012.

U.S. Warns of Major Food Calamity unless Sudan Permits Aid *IIP Digital*, January 27, 2012.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State William J. Burns with Ghana President John Atta Mills Accra, January 26, 2012.

Peace and Security in Africa Remarks by Rosemary DiCarlo, U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, at a Security Council briefing on peace and security in Africa, January 26, 2012.

Issues of Ongoing Concern in Sudan and South Sudan Special briefing by Ambassador Princeton Lyman, U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan, January 25, 2012.

Some Relief in East African Famine, but Aid Must Continue *IIP Digital*, January 25, 2012.

U.S. Efforts in the Humanitarian Crisis in the Horn of Africa Special briefing by U.S. Acting Assistant Secretary of State David M. Robinson, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Bruce Wharton & Nancy Lindborg of USAID; January 24, 2012.

Nigeria: Attacks in Kano and Bauchi State Statement, *U.S. Dept of State*, January 24, 2012.

United States to Engage with Nigeria on Regional Security Media note, *U.S. Dept of State*, January 20, 2012.

Terrorism & Homeland Security:

Al Qaeda in its Third Decade: Irreversible Decline or Imminent Victory? by Brian Michael Jenkins. *RAND*, February 2012. 34p. **Summary**

DHS Monitoring of Social Networking and Media: Enhancing Intelligence Gathering and Ensuring Privacy Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security*, February 16, 2012.

Last Line of Defense: The Federal Air Marshal Service 10 Years after 9/11 Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security*, February 16, 2012.

Targeted Killings Backgrounder by Jonathan Masters. *CFR*, January 26, 2012.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and Terrorism Investigations *CRS*, December 28, 2011. 30p.

Human Rights & Global Issues

The Global Human Rights Regime Backgrounder. *CFR*, February 27, 2012.

International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting Statement by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, February 6, 2012.

LiveAtState: LGBT Issues and U.S. Policy Discussion with U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Baer, January 31, 2012.

Wallenberg's Life-Giving Legacy Op-ed by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, in the *New York Times*, January 16, 2012.

International Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law Remarks by Rosemary A. DiCarlo, U.S. Deputy Permanent Repres. to the United Nations, at Security Council debate on international criminal justice and the rule of law, January 19, 2012.

Development

USAID Announces New University Engagement Partnership Program News release, *U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)*, February 9, 2012.

Multilateral Development Banks: General Capital Increases *CRS*, January 27, 2012. 17p.

Millennium Challenge Corporation *CRS*, January 10, 2012. 46p.

United Nations

Leading for Reform at the United Nations *U.S. Mission to the United Nations*, January 20, 2012. Remarks by **Ambassador Joseph M. Torsella**, U.S. Representative for UN Management and Reform, delivered at the Council on Foreign Relations, January 20, 2012.

Obama Administration Details U.S. Agenda for UN Reforms *IIP Digital*, January 20, 2012.

Obama Administration Accomplishments: Reforming the U.N. Fact sheet, *U.S. Mission to U.N.*, January 19, 2012.

United Nations Reform: U.S. Policy and International Perspectives *CRS*, December 21, 2011. 33p.

Refugees

Refugee Rights *U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants* 2012.

USCRI is committed to upholding the rights of refugees. These rights are based on international laws and treaties that allow for recognition before the law, freedom of movement, and the ability to become self-reliant through work and educational opportunity.

Resettling Refugees in America *U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants* 2012.

It may be hard to believe, but millions of people spend decades in refugee camps, unable to return home. Resettlement in another country is often the only way refugees like Hawo, featured in the video below, have a chance to rebuild their lives. When refugees arrive in the United States, they have very few possessions to their name. This is when USCRI and its affiliates step in.

Three Million: Changing Lives One Refugee at a Time *U.S. Dept of State*, February 21, 2012.

In February 2012 Americans welcomed the three millionth refugees since 1975, helping them build new lives, homes, and communities in all 50 states. The United States is proud of its history of welcoming immigrants and refugees. Historically the United States has provided protection to such well-known individuals as former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and Madeline Albright, Nobel Prize winner Albert Einstein, performer Gloria Estafan, and marathoner Mebrahtom Keflezighi. The stories of many other lesser-known refugees reflect the same determination and perseverance.

Drug Trafficking

Improving the Effectiveness of the International Law if Human Trafficking: A Vision for the Future of the U.S. 'Trafficking in Persons' Reports by Anne Gallagher in *Human Rights Review*, 2011, vol. 12, no. 3.

In 2000, the United States Congress passed the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act requiring the State Department to issue annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Reports describing "the nature and extent of severe forms of trafficking in persons" and assessing governmental efforts across the world to combat trafficking against the criteria established by US law. Gallagher examines the opportunities and risks presented by the TIP Reports, tracing their evolution over the past decade and considering impact on the behavior of states. In looking to the future, the article focuses on how this influential compliance mechanism could improve its legitimacy, respond to negative impacts, and better contribute to the international legal regime around trafficking.

Global Drug Panel Urges Action before "Tipping Point" Comes *IIP Digital*, February 28, 2012.

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

New Orleans Protection Plan Will Rely on Wetlands to Hold Back Hurricanes by Mark Fischetti in *Scientific American blog*, January 26, 2012.

More than six years after Hurricane Katrina plowed into New Orleans and the Mississippi River delta, a plan has finally emerged to protect the area from future storms. It relies heavily on the restoration of wetlands to cut down high surges of ocean water like those that flooded the city in 2005—somewhat of a surprise, considering past efforts focused on levees and seawalls.

Deforestation and Greenhouses Gases by Natalie Tawil. *CBO*, January 2012. 33p.

This Congressional Budget Office (CBO) study, prepared at the request of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, examines challenges that affect whether actions to preserve forests could make a cost-effective contribution to reducing global emissions of greenhouse gases. It also discusses the pros and cons of approaches that the United States and other developed countries could take to promote forest preservation. In keeping with CBO's mandate to provide objective, impartial analysis, the study contains no recommendations.

Biotech Adoption Rates Highest Ever by Kathryn McConnell on *IIP Digital*, February 7, 2012.

Agricultural biotechnology continues to grow around the world at unprecedented rates, with 8% more biotech hectares planted in 2011 than in 2010, according to a major international research group (**Executive Summary**).

Biotech and Organic Farming: Coexisting Peacefully by Kathryn McConnell on *IIP Digital*, July 1, 2011.

McConnell posits that agricultural biotechnology and organic farming can coexist — even thrive in the same food-supply chain - despite the fact that some proponents of organic farming have been at odds with the scientists who genetically engineer seeds.

The Calm Before the Wave by Tim Folger in *National Geographic*, February 2012.

Minamisanriku, a quiet fishing port north of Sendai in northeastern Japan, disappeared last March 11. The disaster started at 2:46 p.m., about 80 miles east in the Pacific, along a fault buried deep under the seafloor. A 280-mile-long block of Earth's crust suddenly lurched to the east, parts of it by nearly 80 feet. Another earthquake had jolted the region two days earlier - a precursor, scientists now realize, to the March 11 temblor, which has turned out to be the largest in Japan's history. When the ground finally stopped heaving, after five excruciating minutes, Minamisanriku was still mostly intact. But the sea had just begun to heave. The mayor and others ran next door to the town's three-story disaster-readiness center. Miki Endo, a 24-year-old woman working on the second floor, started broadcasting a warning over the town's loudspeakers: "Please head to higher ground!" Sato and most of his group headed up to the roof. From there they watched the tsunami pour over the town's 18-foot-high seawall.

Some environmental resources which may be of interest:

Journal of Energy Security

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Fact Sheet Office of the Spokesperson, Washington, DC February 16, 2012.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton today announced the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants, a new global initiative to seize the opportunity of realizing concrete benefits on climate, health, food and energy resulting from reducing short-lived climate pollutants.

U.S. Coal Production Rises Slightly in 2011 amid Lower Domestic Demand and Higher Exports *EIA, U.S. Dept of Energy*, February 13, 2012.

Natural Gas and Renewable Shares of Electricity Generation to Grow, Coal Still Largest *EIA, Administration, U.S. Dept of Energy*, February 10, 2012.

Most States Have Renewable Portfolio Standards *EIA, U.S. Dept of Energy*, February 3, 2012.

Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future Hearing before a subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce, February 1, 2012.

EPA Hydraulic Fracturing Research Hearing before a subcommittee of the *U.S. House Committee on Science, Space and Technology*, February 1, 2012. **News Release**

The U.S. and Global Energy Outlook for 2012 Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, January 31, 2012.

Global Natural Gas Production Doubled between 1980 and 2010 EIA, U.S. Dept of Energy, January 31, 2012.

U.S. Mineral Values Up in 2011 News release, U.S. Geological Survey, January 30, 2012.

President Obama's Blueprint to Make the Most of America's Energy Resources Fact sheet. *The White House*, January 26, 2012. **Remarks by President Obama in Las Vegas**

Campaign 2012: The Candidates on Energy Policy Backgrounder. *Council on Foreign Relations*, January 25, 2012.

From 1980 to 2010, Most Regions Contributed to Growth in Global Crude Oil Production EIA, U.S. Dept of Energy, January 25, 2012.

A Review of the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Science, Space and Technology*, January 24, 2012.

U.S. Energy Use Projected to Grow Slowly and Become Less Carbon-Intensive EIA, U.S. Dept of Energy, January 24, 2012.

Evaluating the Prospects for Increased Exports of Liquefied Natural Gas from the U.S. Executive Summary. *Energy Security Initiative at Brookings*, January 2012. 40p.

Arctic Oil and Natural Gas Resources EIA, U.S. Dept of Energy, January 20, 2012.

DOE Provides Detailed Onshore Wind Resource Map U.S. Dept of Energy (DOE), January 19, 2012. **See also**

NASA Finds 2011 Ninth-Warmest Year on Record NASA, January 19, 2012.

Energy Emergency Preparedness Quarterly U.S. Dept of Energy, January 15, 2012.

Oil's Trouble Spots Backgrounder by Toni Johnson. *Council on Foreign Relations*, January 13, 2011.

Water Reuse: Potential for Expanding the Nation's Water Supply through Reuse of Municipal Wastewater by a committee of the National Research Council. National Academies Press, 2011. Note: 200p. News Release, January 10, 2012.

Deforestation and Greenhouse Gases CBO, January 2012. 33p. **Summary**

National Climate Adaptation Strategy: Fish, Wildlife and Plants U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, January 2012. The Public Review draft is available for public review and comment until March 5, 2012.

Interactive Graphics Showing the Climate, Health, and Agricultural Benefits of Methane and Black Carbon Emissions Control Measures by Dr Drew Shindell. NASA, January 2012.

Annual Energy Outlook: Early Release Overview EIA, U.S. Dept of Energy, January 2012.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Traffic Congestion: Road Pricing Can Help Reduce Congestion, but Equity Concerns May Grow GAO, January 2012. 60p. **Summary**

Using Public-Private Partnerships to Carry Out Highway Projects CBO, January 2012. 44p. **Summary**

Aviation

A Review of Issues Associated with Protecting and Improving Our Nation's Aviation Satellite-Based Global Positioning System Infrastructure Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, January 27, 2012.

NextGen: Leveraging Public, Private, and Academic Resources Hearing before the *U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, November 7, 2011.

Nanotechnology

Safety of Nanomaterials Not Well Understood; Research Needed IIP Digital, February 1, 2012.

A Research Strategy for Environmental, Health, and Safety Aspects of Engineered Nanomaterials Report of a committee of the National Research Council. *National Academies Press*, January 2012. Note: 214p.

Agriculture and Food

Global Food Prices Lower, U.S. Economist Says *IIP Digital*, February 24, 2012. (Economist Joseph Glauber)

Biotech Adoption Rates Highest Ever *IIP Digital*, February 7, 2012. Worldwide trend - agricultural biotechnology.

First 2012 Meeting of the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, February 6, 2012 .

ECONOMY / TRADE

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Countries: Comparative Trade and Economic Analysis *CRS*, February 8, 2012. 38p.

Is the Labor Market Global? by Uri Dadish & William Shaw in *Current History*, January 2012.m all comers?

Does globalization mean that the labor market, like goods and finance markets, has become open to competition from all comers?

Some economics/trade resources which may be of interest:

The Depreciating Dollar: Economic Effects and Policy Response *CRS*, February 23, 2012. 24p.

Economic Rebounds in U.S. and Eurozone: Deceivingly Similar, Strikingly Different by Anthony Landry & Carlos E.J.M. Zarazaga. Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, *Economic Letter*, February 2012.

Global Business Conference U.S. Dep. Sec. of State for Management and Resources Thomas Nides, February 21, 2012.

The Federal Reserve and the Economic Recovery Speech by John C. Williams, president and chief executive officer, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, February 8, 2012.

Financial Literacy: Strengthening Partnerships in Challenging Times: Highlights of a Forum *GAO*, February 2012. 25p. **Summary**

The State of Financial Reform Address by U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner, February 2, 2012.

Restoring U.S. Competitiveness: Creating Jobs and Unleashing the Potential of Small Businesses through Technology and Innovation *Center for Public Policy Innovation*, February 2012. 12p.

Why is the U.S. Share of World Merchandise Exports Shrinking? by Benjamin R. Mandel. Federal Reserve Bank of New York, *Current Issues in Economics and Finance*, Volume 18, Number 1, 2012. 11p. **Short Summary** / **Press Release**. **"Down, but Not Out: U.S. Remains Competitive in Global Trade"**, February 7, 2012.

Pass-Through and the Renminbi's Appreciation by Owen Humpage and Margaret Jacobson. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, *Economic Trends*, January 24, 2012.

U.S. Economy Posts Growth for 10th Straight Quarter *IIP Digital*, January 27, 2012. **See also**

Financial Crisis Showed Holes; Regulators Work on Fix *IIP Digital*, January 27, 2012.

Eurozone Fears Permeate Davos Analysis brief by Christopher Alessi. *CFR*, January 27, 2012.

Bernanke: U.S. Economy Expanding Despite Global Slowdown *IIP Digital*, January 25, 2012.

President Obama's Blueprint to Support U.S. Manufacturing Jobs, Discourage Outsourcing, and Encourage Insourcing Fact Sheet *The White House* fact sheet, January 25, 2012.

The U.S. Economy and Monetary Policy in 2012 Speech by Esther L. George, president and chief executive officer, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, January 10, 2012.

National Strategy for Global Supply Chain Security Fact Sheet *The White House*, January 25, 2012.

President Obama Announces Plan to Consolidate Six Business- and Trade-Related U.S. Government Agencies *The White House*, January 13, 2012.

Made in Heaven or Marriage from Hell? Social Media and the Finance Sector Cicero Consulting, January 2012. 28p.

Clinton Hosts International Women's Business Leadership Council *IIP Digital*, January 24, 2012. **Welcoming remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton**

The Global Finance Regime Backgrounder *Council on Foreign Relations*, January 23, 2012.

The Role of Financing in International Trade During Good Times and Bad by Silvio Contessi & Francesca de Nicola. Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis, *The Regional Economist*, January 2012. 6p.

The Credit Rating Controversy Backgrounder by Christopher Alessi & Roya Wolverson. *CFR*, January 19, 2012.

13th Annual Awards for Corporate Excellence Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, and others, January 18, 2012.

FDIC Proposes Stress Testing Regulation for Large Banks News release, *Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)*, January 17, 2012. **See also**

U.S. to Hit \$2 Trillion in 2011 Exports, Set to Meet Obama's Goal *IIP Digital*, January 13, 2012. **See also / Report**

Economic Developments, Risks to the Outlook, and Housing Market Policies Speech by Elizabeth A. Duke, a governor of the U.S. Federal Reserve, January 6, 2012.

Housing and the Economic Recovery Speech by William C. Dudley, president and chief executive officer, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, January 6, 2012.

U.S. Federal Budget

Obama Prepares to Submit U.S. Budget for Fiscal Year 2013 *IIP Digital*, February 13, 2012.

Obama Budget to Cut Deficit, Support Economic Recovery *IIP Digital*, February 13, 2012.

The Economic Outlook and the Federal Budget Situation Testimony by Ben S. Bernanke, Chairman, U.S. Federal Reserve, before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget, February 7, 2012.

Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2013 *The White House*, February 2012. Note: 256p. **Overview / Chapter downloads / Supplemental materials / President's Budget Message**

Cuts, Consolidations, and Savings: Budget of the U.S. Government, Fiscal Year 2013 *The White House*, February 2012. Note: 213p.

Analytical Perspectives: Budget of the U.S. Government, Fiscal Year 2013 *The White House*, February 2012. Note: 510p. **Chapter downloads**

General Explanations of the Administration's Fiscal Year 2013 Revenue Proposals *U.S. Dept of the Treasury*, February 2012. Note: 215p.

The Budget and Economic Outlook: Fiscal Years 2012-2022 *CBO*, January 2012. Note: 165p.

The ARTS / CULTURE

Barack Obama Performs with B.B. King and Mick Jagger *The White House*, February 22, 2012.

At a White house reception President Obama joined blues all-stars including Mick Jagger, B.B. King, Booker T. Jones and Buddy Guy for a rendition of the standard "Sweet Home Chicago" at a concert in the East Room celebrating the blues. Obama, who recently impressed music fans by singing a few lines from Al Green's classic "Let's Stay Together" in Harlem, was just as smooth in this impromptu performance, which occurred when the musicians urged the President to pick up a microphone.

Errol Morris: The Thinking Man's Detective by Ron Rosenbaum in *Smithsonian*, March 2012.

This Oscar-winning documentary filmmaker has become America's most surprising and provocative intellectual.

The Groundbreaking of for the National American History & Culture *Smithsonian.com*, February 2012.

President Obama presided over the milestone moment in Smithsonian history, as ground was broken for the institution's 19th museum. Lonnie Bunche, the Director, "wants this building to "dance with the other buildings on the Mall – and hint at what is inside..." **Listen**

Eating Pancakes for a Good Cause on *IIP Digital*, February 2012.

National Pancake Day – It's an excellent way to fund a particular charity. See also **American Food Traditions**

BUSINESS /LABOR

Making it in America by Adam Davidson in *The Atlantic*, January/February 2012.

Davidson visits a factory in small town America in an effort to better understand what exactly is happening to manufacturing in his country, and what the future holds for people like Maddie - people who still make physical things for a living and, more broadly, people (as many as 40 million adults in the U.S.) who lack higher education, but are striving for a middle-class life.

Kodak: A Parable of American Competitiveness by Dina Gerdeman on *Harvard Business School Working Knowledge*, February 6, 2012.

When American companies shift pieces of their operations overseas, they run the risk of moving the expertise, innovation, and new growth opportunities just out of their reach as well, explains HBS Professor Willy Shih, who served as president of Eastman Kodak's digital imaging business for several years.

How Pinterest is Becoming the Next Big Thing in Social Media for Business by Jason Falls in *Entrepreneur*, February 7, 2012.

Move over Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Forget Networking: How to be a Connector by Alina Tugend in *Entrepreneur*, January 29, 2012.

We all know people like them, people who seem to know everyone. They're always able to help - or if they can't, they know someone who can. You meet them for the first time and in 15 minutes, you're talking with them like you're childhood friends. They're successful, smart and funny, with a likable touch of self-deprecation. And they're interested in everything. Tugend believes they are an institution's "pure gold."

Where Great Work Places Start on *Greatworkplace.com* July, 2010.

Four lessons in attracting talent.

Some related resources which may be of interest:

The World's 50 Most Innovative Companies on *FastCompany.com*, March 2012.

Forecasters See Stronger Labor Market Report/**News Release** *Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia*, February 10, 2012.

Labor Force Projections to 2020: A More Slowly Growing Workforce *Monthly Labor Review*, January 2012. 22p. **Summary** *Pew Research Center*.

Job Creation by Small and Large Firms over the Business Cycle by Murat Tasci & Emily Burgen. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, *Economic Trends*, February 6, 2012.

Behind the Decline in Labor's Share of Income by Margaret Jacobson and Filippo Occhino. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, *Economic Trends*, February 3, 2012.

Major Work Stoppages in 2011 *Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept of Labor*, February 8, 2012. 6p.

Prior User Rights: Strengthening U.S. Manufacturing and Innovation Hearing before a subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary, February 1, 2012. Re the prior user rights defense to patent infringement.

The Debate over Anti-Piracy Laws Analysis brief by Toni Johnson, *Council on Foreign Relations*, January 30, 2012.

Intellectual Property Rights: Fiscal Year 2011 Seizure Statistics *U.S. Customs & Border Protection*, January 2012. 34p.

Some Improvement in the Labor Market by Timothy Dunne and Kyle Fee. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, *Economic Trends*, January 9, 2012.

Globalization, Worker Insecurity, and Policy Approaches *CRS*, December 22, 2011. 15p.

Women in the Labor Force: A Databook *Bureau of Labor Stat., U.S. Dept of Labor*, December 2011. **Full Report** 101p.

2011: A Great Year for American Inventors and Innovation Blog post by David Kappos, Director, *U.S. Patent and Trademark Office*, December 30, 2011.

U.S. SOCIETY

Rising Share of Americans See Conflict between Rich and Poor *Pew Research*, January 11, 2012. 13p. [Summary](#) / [Brief Summary](#)

Concentrated Poverty by Dionissi Aliprantis & Mary Zenker. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, *Economic Commentary*, December 21, 2011.

Volunteering in the United States – 2011 *Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept of Labor*, February 22, 2012. 12p.

Before Occupy Movement, the Poor People's Campaign *IIP Digital*, February 16, 2012. The Poor People's Campaign of 1968 and its legacy.

Religion

Mormons in America: Certain in Their Beliefs, Uncertain of their Place in Society *Pew Research*, January 12, 2012. Note: 125p. [Summary](#)

Justices Grant Leeway to Churches in Job Bias Laws *New York Times* online, January 11, 2012.

The Civic and Community Engagement of Religiously Active Americans *Pew Internet & American Life Project*, December 23, 2011. [Summary](#)

Health

A Healthy Future: Today's Innovative Initiatives for Tomorrow's Good Health *eJournal USA*, Dec., 2011. 48p. [Downloads by chapter](#) *eJournal USA*

U.S. Response to the Growing Threat of Tuberculosis: Basic Facts *CRS*, January 5, 2012. 15p.

Quitting Smoking among Adults: United States, 2001-2010 *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, November 11, 2011.

Health

President's Budget Request Reflects Strong Commitment on Global AIDS *U.S. Dept of State, DipNote blog*, February 13, 2012.

Cancer Screening – United States, 2010 *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, January 27, 2012. 34p.

Health and Access to Care Among Employed and Unemployed Adults: United States, 2009-2010 *National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Dept of Health & Human Services*, January 2012. 8p.

Children and Youth:

Empowering Youth Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of State*, February 1, 2012.

With 60% of the world's population under the age of 30, there are more young people in the world than ever. Empowered youth are among our foremost innovators and drivers of progress. But youth without access to legitimate livelihoods and means to make their voices heard can hinder all of our security – 86% percent of civil unrest occurs in societies where a significant majority of the population is younger than 30.

The American Freshman: National Norms Fall 2011 *Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA*, 2011. 78p.

Young, Underemployed, and Optimistic: Coming of Age, Slowly, in a Tough Economy *Pew Research*, February 9, 2012. 67p. [Highlights](#) / [Summary](#)

An Annual Profile of 1st Year American College Students' Social and Political Views / [Press Release](#) January 25, 2012. [Summary](#)

DIVERSITY & CIVIL RIGHTS

Free At Last - the U.S. experience with civil rights struggles.

Chinese Immigrants in the U.S. by Kristen McCabe. *Migration Policy Institute*, January 2012.

Hispanics Say They Have the Worst of a Bad Economy *Pew Research*, January 26, 2012. 32p. [Overview](#) / [Brief Summary](#)

WEBCHATS

A Narrative on Diversity: To Be Muslim and American August 2011 CO.NX - Darren Wang, a senior U.S. official, discussed the role of religious diversity in the U.S. and what it means to him to be an American Muslim. Participants also asked questions about religious diversity in the United States.

Tolerance: 2011 Hours Against Hate Campaign September 2011 CO.NX - Participants joined Special Representative to Muslim Communities Farah Pandith and Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Hannah Rosenthal for a webchat on U.S. efforts to combat discrimination and hatred against Jews, Muslims, and others, as part of their *2011 Hours Against Hate* campaign. *2011 Hours Against Hate* is a campaign to stop bigotry and promote respect across lines of culture, religion, tradition, class, and gender.

PHOTO GALLERY

The U.S. Civil Rights Movement

POWERPOINT

Diversity: Offering a Place for Everyone - Includes updated data from the 2010 U.S. Census.

EDUCATION

The Impact of a Principal February 8, 2012.

Meet Lesley Taylor, a school principal driving meaningful community change in Savannah, GA. Video.

Parental Engagement Helps Lead to School's Blue Ribbon Success on *Ed.gov*, February 16, 2012.

Guest blogger Salzer attributes six factors that have contributed to her school's success.

The International Experience by Carlos Xabel Lastra-Anadon & Paul Peterson in *Education Next*, Winter 2012.

As we look at what U.S. schools can and cannot learn from other countries, it is tempting to undertake an in-depth study of the countries that are performing at the highest levels - China's Shanghai province, Korea, Finland, Singapore, Japan, etc.

Does School Choice Reduce Crime? by David Deming in *Education Next*, Winter 2012.

Deming investigates whether the opportunity to attend a school other than a student's assigned neighborhood school reduces criminal activity, especially among disadvantaged youth. Many of the schools chosen by the students were "better" on traditional indicators, such as student test scores and teacher characteristics. The analysis sheds light on whether efforts to expand school choice can be an effective crime-prevention strategy, particularly when disadvantaged students can gain access to "better" schools.

Academic Value of Non-Academics by June Kronholz in *Education Next*, Winter 2012.

A growing body of research says there is a link between afterschool activities and graduating from high school, going to college, and becoming a responsible citizen, maintains Kronholz.

Occupy Kindergarten: The Rich-Poor Divide Starts With Education in *The Atlantic*, January/February.

Economic class is increasingly becoming the great dividing line of American education – even in a child's first years.

How to Prepare for College in High School on *SmarterSchooling.com*

Students should realize that from their first day to their last, the time spent in high school and the decisions they make will affect their college plans and their future.

Envisioning a Post-Campus America by Megan McArdle on *The Atlantic.com* on February 13, 2012.

MIT plans to offer certificates for completion of low-cost online coursework, an offering the university is calling MITx.

Information Technology: A View from Both Sides of the President's Desk by Michael McRobbie in *Educause Review*.

A university president, and former CIO at his institution, answers the burning questions.

Some educational resources which may be of interest:

How Colleges and Universities Can Help Their Local Economies by Jaison R. Abel and Richard Deitz. Federal Reserve Bank of New York, *Liberty Street Economics*, February 13, 2012.

Innovations in College Affordability Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, February 2, 2012.

President Obama's Blueprint for Keeping College Affordable and Within Reach for All Americans Fact sheet. *The White House*, January 27, 2012.

Mobile IT in Higher Education 2011 Report *Educause*, 2012.

Many are waiting for the market to mature or institutional collaboration to occur before making (expensive) decisions.

What Do Students Pay for College? *National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Dept of Education*, January 2012. 73p.

Teaching Respect for All Remarks by U.S. Asst. Secretary of State Esther Brimmer, at UNESCO, in Paris, January 18, 2012. See **media note** and **see also** "Teaching Respect for All" is a new international effort to develop a middle school curriculum for use across the globe to promote respect for all people.

Hard Times: Not All College Degrees Are Created Equal: College Majors, Unemployment and Earnings *Center on Education and the Workforce*, Georgetown University, January 2012. 20p. **Summary /News Release**, January 4, 2012.

MEDIA, INTERNET & SOCIAL NETWORKING

Political Journalism: Picking the Winner While the Game's Still Going On by Rem Reider in *American Journalism Review*, December 2011/January 2012.

"Overreacting to the momentum of the moment is hardly a new phenomenon," says Rieder as he discusses the tendency among political journalists, one they share with sportswriters, to emphasize the story of the frontrunner but change directions as soon as something unexpected happens, like the sudden surge of a particular candidate. He argues that citizens should resist the steady drumbeat "because the constant stream of premature if not erroneous conclusions, the dizzying whipsawing, does nothing but diminish the already sagging credibility of the news media."

Tech Trends 2012: Elevate IT for Digital Business *Deloitte*, February 2012. 79p.

Even today, business leaders may dismiss the potential of social business, either relegating it to the realm of Internet marketing or ignoring the buzz as a passing fad. But that's changing as boomers evolve into digital natives, millennials permeate the workforce and social media becomes a part of daily life.

Recommendations for Establishing an Identity Ecosystem Governance Structure *National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S. Dept of Commerce*, February 2012. 51p.

Since the creation of the Internet, there have always been difficult questions surrounding privacy, security, and trust. How do we know with whom we are interacting? How do we know they are trustworthy? How do we balance the desires for anonymity and personal privacy with the need to secure our information and transactions? In an effort to address these questions, President Obama signed the *National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace (NSTIC or "Strategy")*. This Strategy calls for the creation of an "Identity Ecosystem" – an online environment where individuals and organizations will be able to better trust each other because they follow agreed upon standards to obtain and authenticate their digital identities in a way that protects personal privacy, and also supports innovation and growth. By choosing to participate in this Identity Ecosystem, consumers and service providers alike would be confident in the identities of those institutions and individuals with whom they choose to interact, and in the security of their own private information.

Why Pinterest Is So Addictive by Lydia Dishman on *FastCompany.com* February 17, 2012.

The human instinct to collect things, be it baseball cards, miniature spoons, etc. is as old as stuff itself. But it took *Pinterest* to perfect this process online. Fast Company turned to the experts to uncover the psychology behind *Pinterest's* winning formula, and why it's resonating with millions of blissed-out users.

Other online resources which may be of interest:

Youth and Digital Media: from Credibility to Information Quality by Peggy Garvin. *Berkman Center*, 2012. Exec.Sum.

Digital Advertising and News: Who Advertises on News Sites and How Much Those Ads Are Targeted Pew Research Center, February 13, 2012. 28p. **Highlights / Brief Summary**

NIST Report Recommends New Privately Led Steering Group to Drive Trusted Identities in Cyberspace Feb.,7'12.

U.S. Government Works to Enhance Cyberdefenses *IIP Digital*, February 2, 2012. See also **Remarks by Senator Rockefeller, chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation**

Internet Freedom and the Digital Earthquake of 2011 Remarks by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Michael H. Posner to the State of the Net Conference, January 17, 2012. **See also**

Cyber-Security: The Vexed Question of Global Rules: An Independent Report on Cyber-Preparedness Around the World *Security & Defense Agenda*, Brussels, 2012. 108p.

Guidelines on Security and Privacy in Public Cloud Computing *National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S. Dept of Commerce*, December 2011. 80p.

2012 Will See Rise in Cyber-Espionage and Malware, Experts Say in *PC World*, December 27, 2011. **See also** **Twitter Blog / Facebook Blog**

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